



***Safety Division***

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# ***Marine Corps Sergeant Major Symposium***

Col James D. Grace  
Director Safety Division  
1 August 2007



# Private Motor Vehicle Study Marine IG Report

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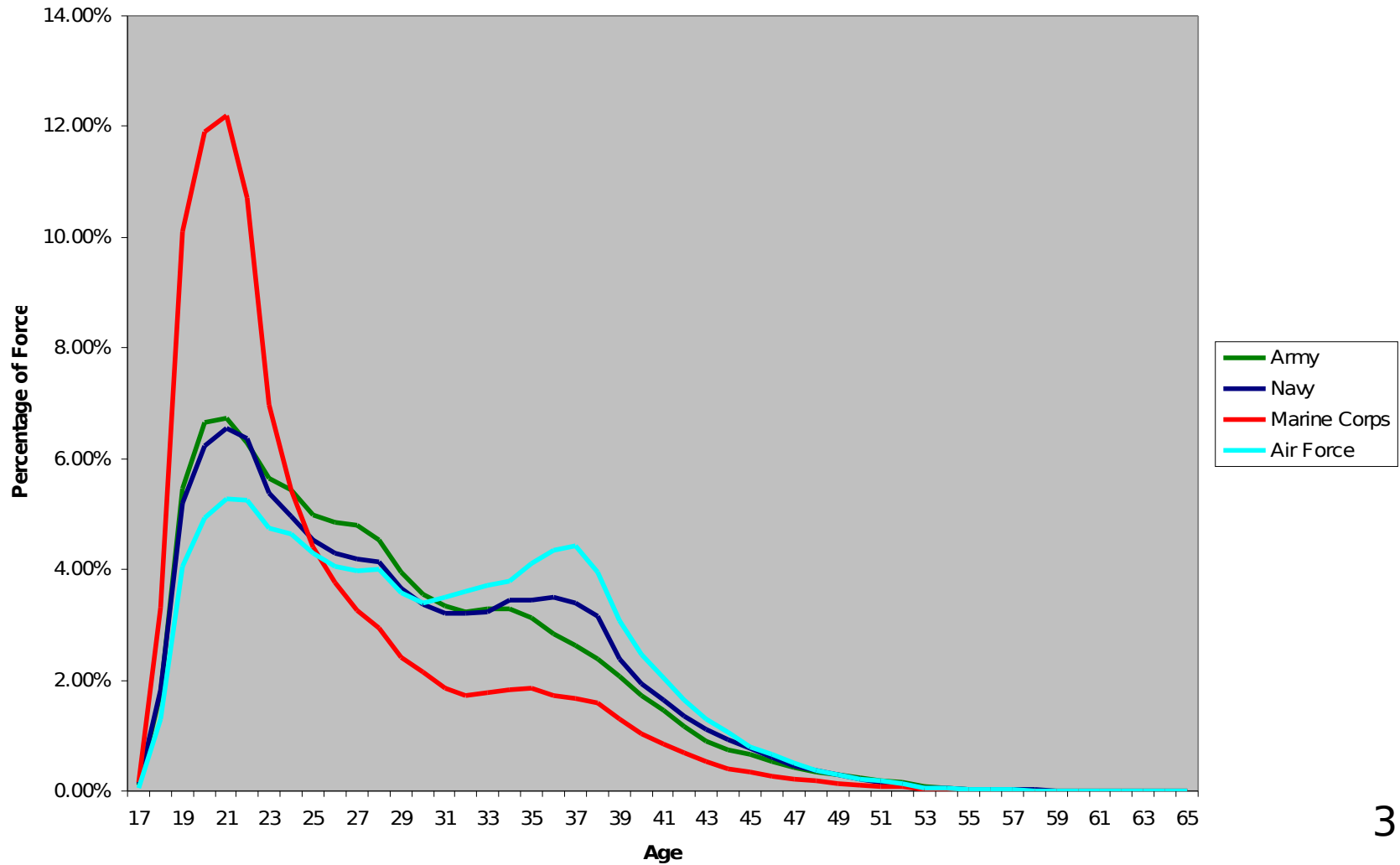
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- ***On the battlefield there are none better-on the highway, none are more at risk***
  - Risk taker, adventuresome, aggressive, bold and outspoken are all qualifiers assigned to our young Marines
  - Our recruiting campaigns advertise these notions, our training methodologies promote them, and our success in combat validates the concept



# Service age comparisons

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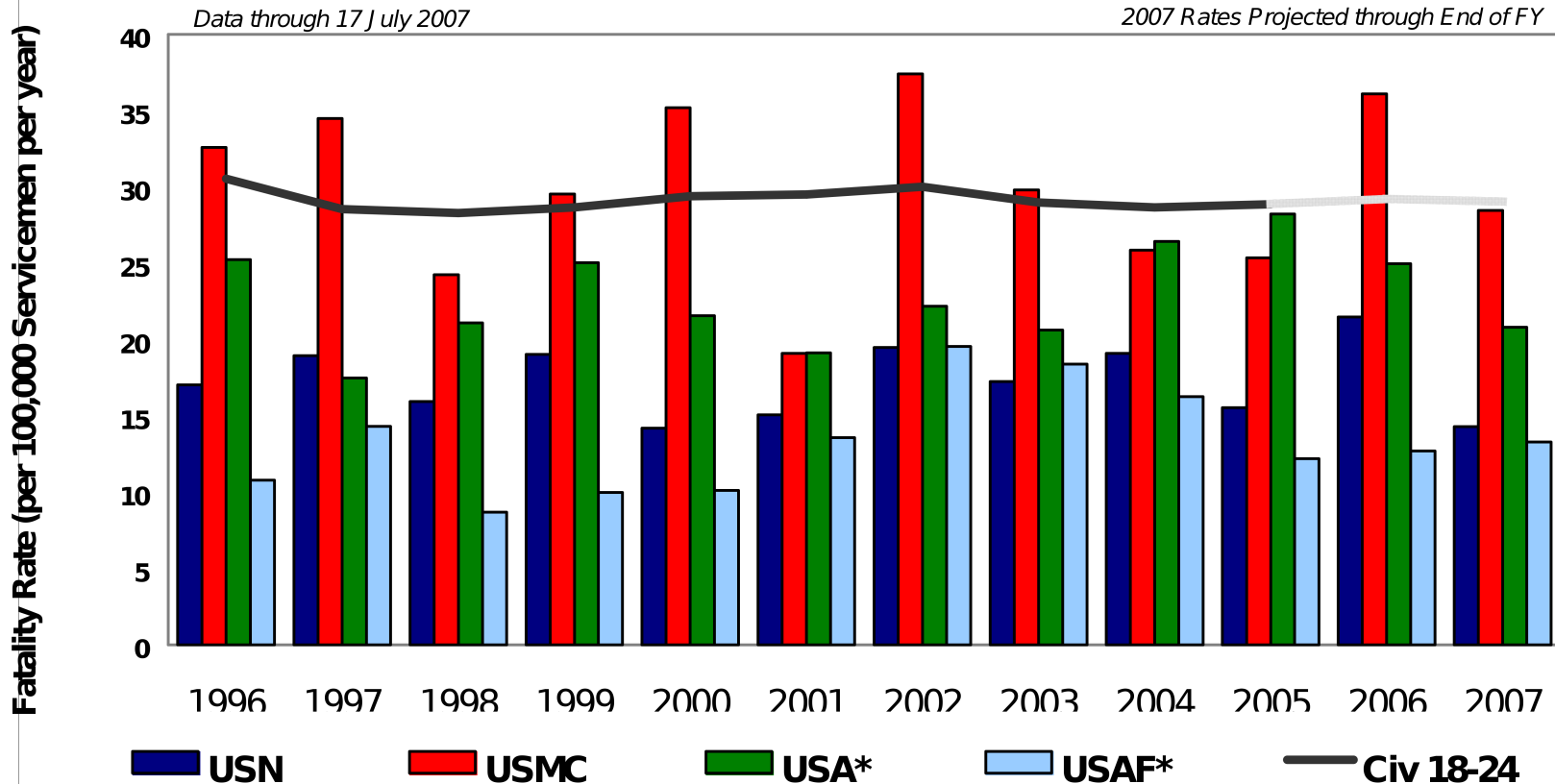




# PMV Fatality Rates By Service

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## PMV Fatality Rates by Service FY1996 - 2007

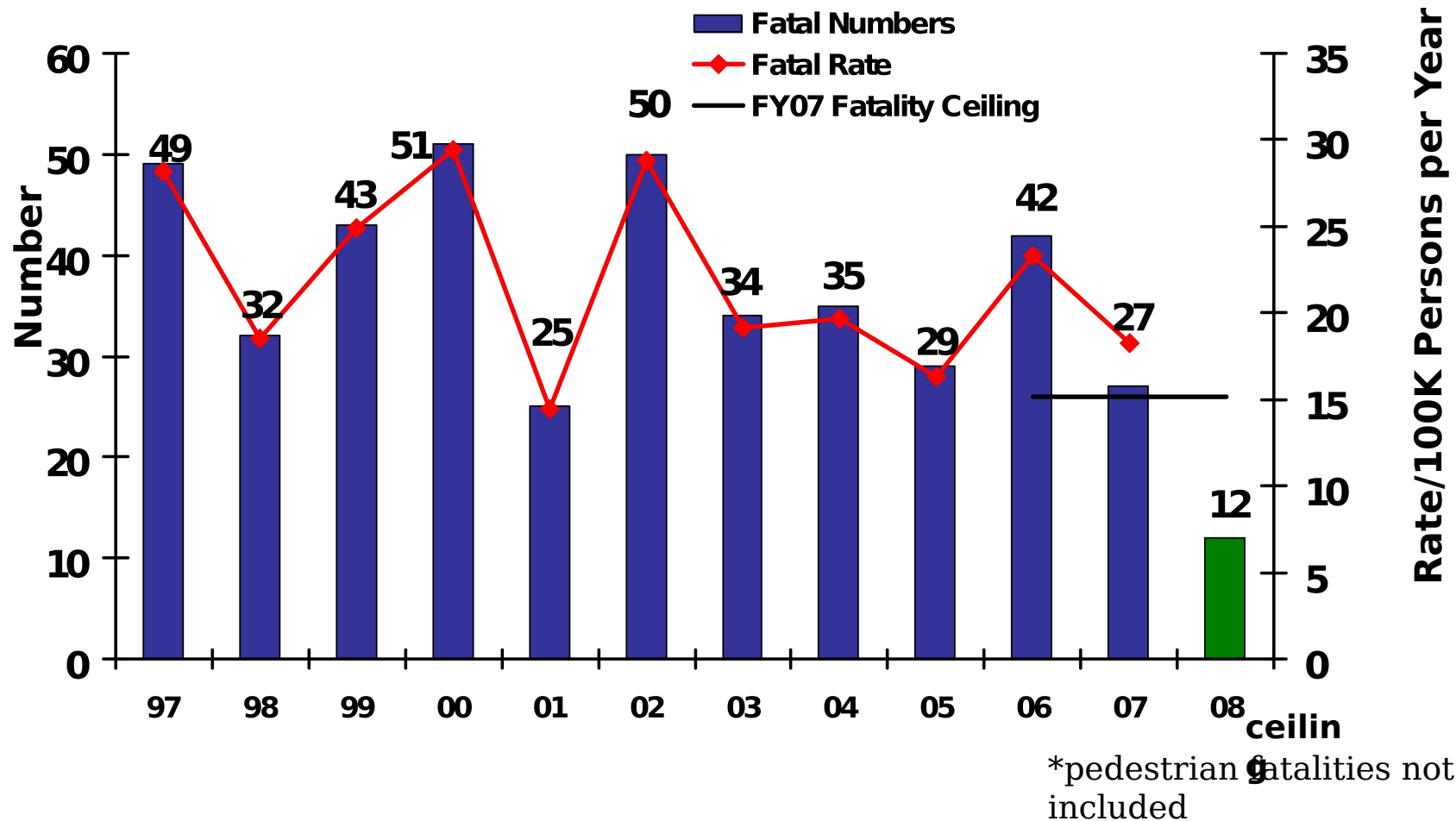


Data Sources: Naval Safety Center; Air Force Safety Center; Army Combat Readiness Center; DODI Statistics; NHTSA  
\* Rates do not match published numbers. Rates have been adjusted to exclude Reservists in order to permit valid comparison.



# 4-Wheel PMV Fatalities

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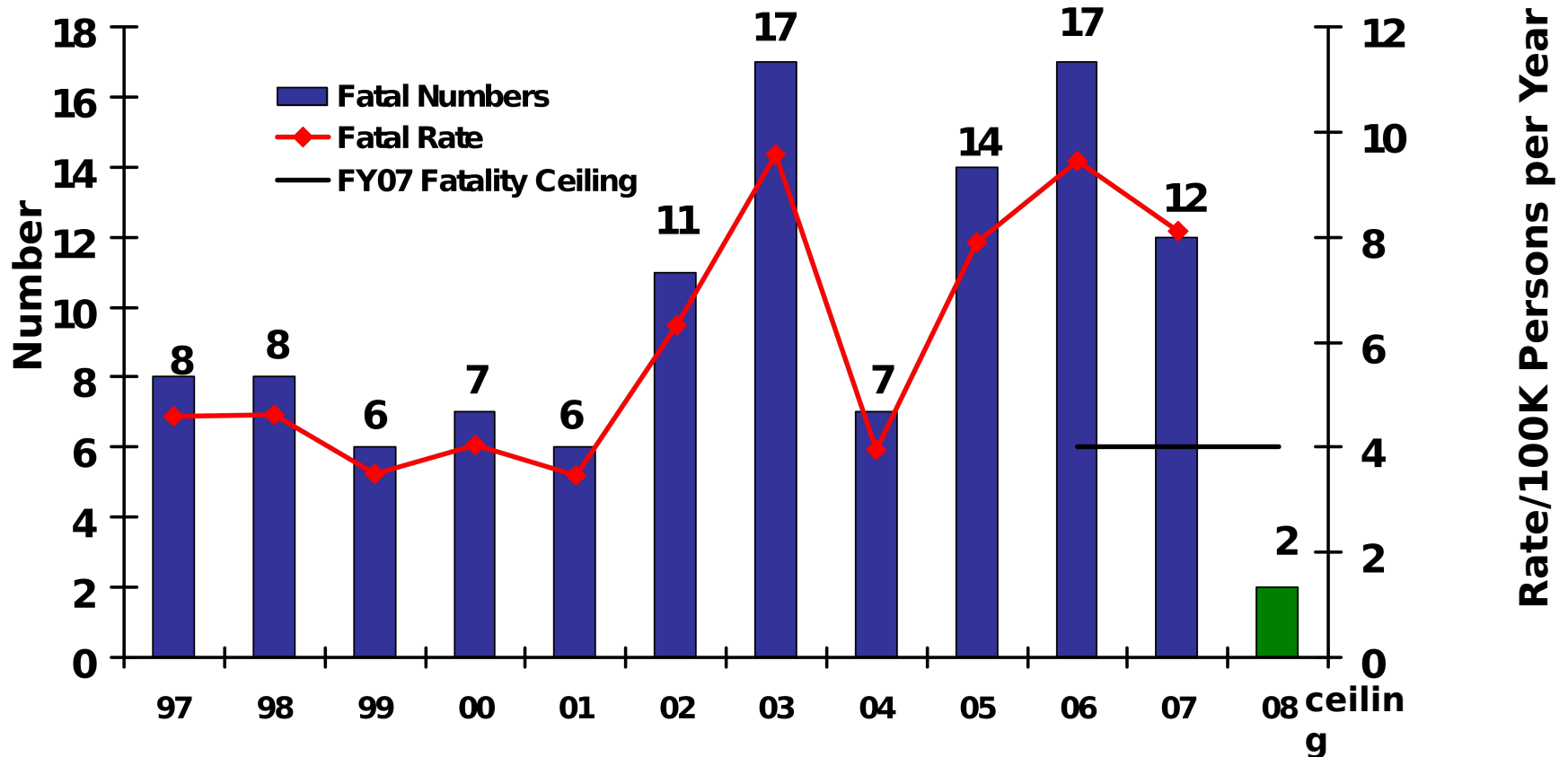


**2 Four-Wheel Fatalities during this reporting period 21 July  
- 27 July**



# Motorcycle PMV Fatalities

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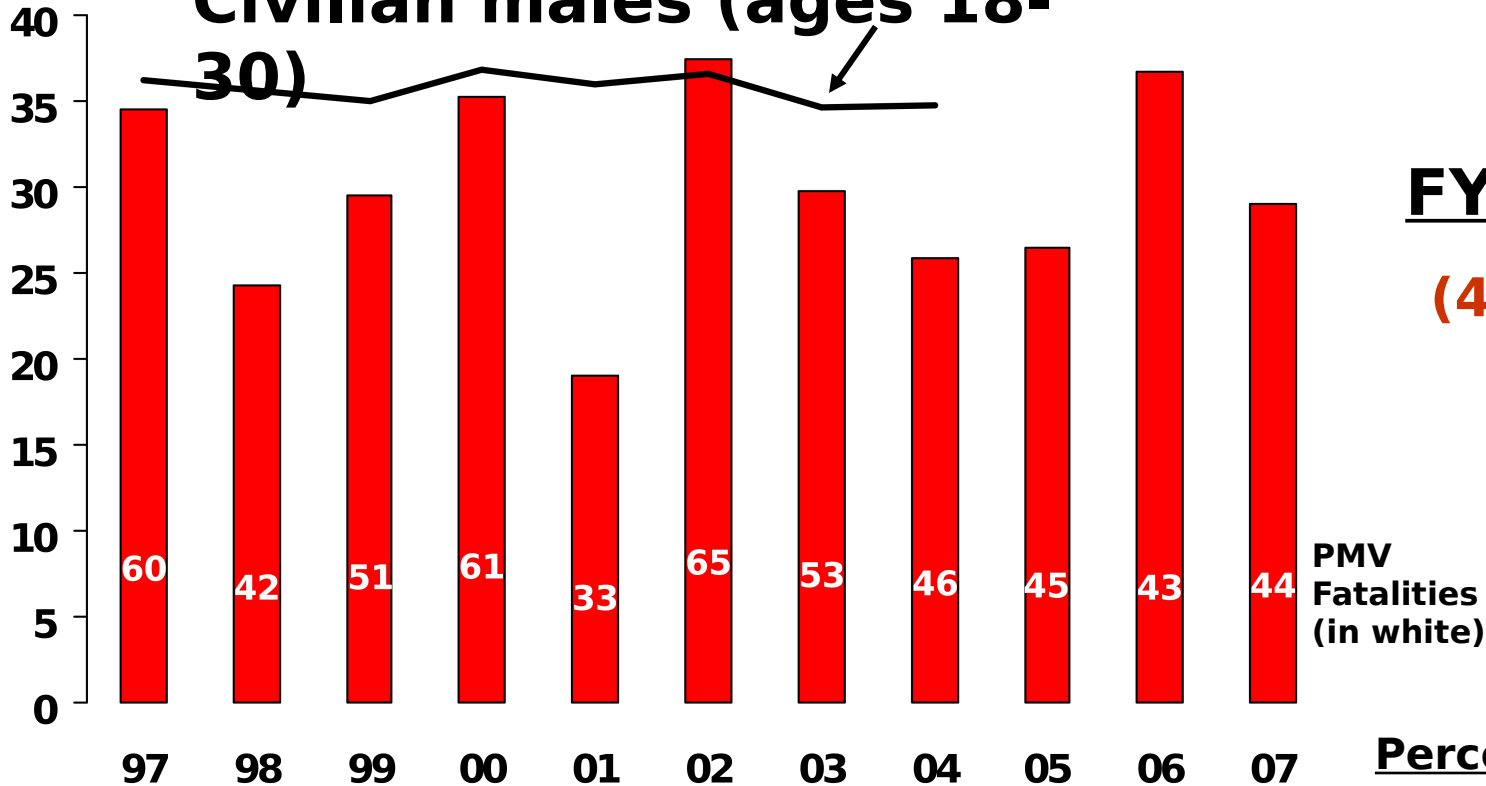
**1 Motorcycle Fatalities during this reporting period 21 July - 27 July**



# Marine Corps vs. Civilian PMV Fatality Rates and Fatalities (FY97-07)

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**Civilian males (ages 18-30)**



**FY07 to 23**

**July**  
**(44) Marine Corps**

PMV  
Fatalities  
(in white)

**Fiscal Year**

**Percentage of Force Under 26 Years**

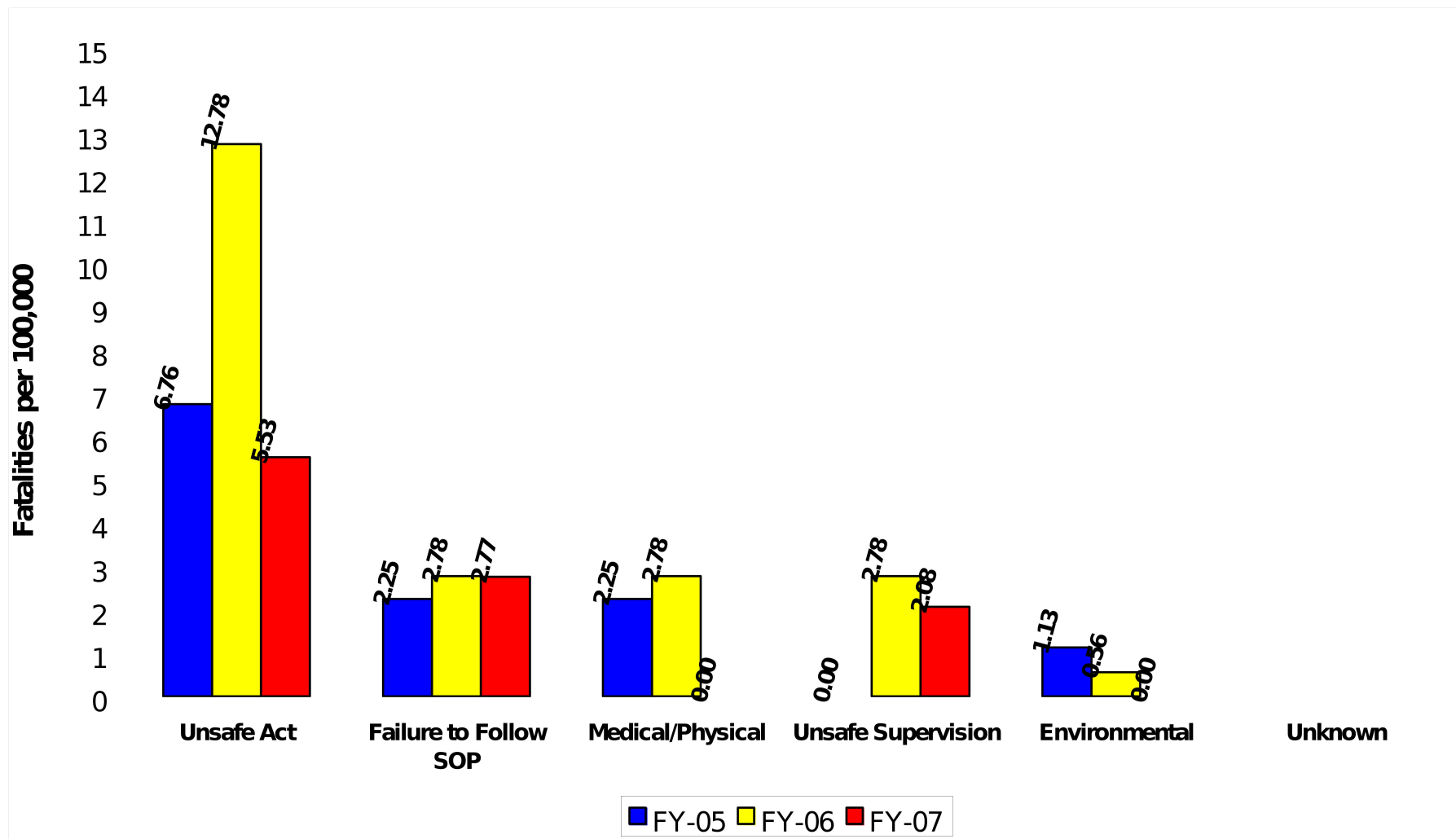
**Marine Corps = 69%**

Rates per 100K active duty military personnel per year.



# FY 05-07 MARINE CORPS OPERATIONAL FATALITY CAUSAL

## ~~Safety Division~~ FACTORS







# Private Motor Vehicle Study Marine IG Report

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- ***1 October 2006 report to SECNAV:***
  - The Corps culture re-enforces aggressive behavior
  - Behind the wheel, individual behaviors are pre-eminent over professional military behavior influencing an individual's actions
  - Marines will follow the rules when they believed they would be held accountable
- Safety is treated as an additive function, rather than an integral part of the commander's overall mission



# Private Motor Vehicle Study Marine IG Report

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- ***We are who we recruit:***
  - Television commercials depicting a young rock climber dangling one-handed from the rock face
  - Rock hard drill instructors who push recruits to accomplish feats beyond his/her imagination
  - Tales of sacrifice on the battlefield; leads to the mindset that Marines are different – tougher, stronger, more daring



# Private Motor Vehicle Study Marine IG Report

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- ***Behavior behind the wheel must be viewed on the same level as behavior in uniform and professionalized to that end***
  - **Enforcement** over training and education, is the most effective means to combat PMV related infractions
  - “if caught by civilian authorities there is still a chance they will go unnoticed by the Marine Corps”



# What We Are Doing

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- Executive Safety Board:
  - Each trimester
- IGMC PMV Safety Performance Study:
  - Implementing IG recommendations
- Identifying High Risk Drivers:
  - Driver licensing information test & DBAT survey
- Accountability:
  - CMC White Letter on seatbelts, Commanders Course
- MCCLL Partnership:
  - Includes safety page for the first time
- CMC Way Forward 2006:
  - Focus on leaders (Junior NCO's and Company Grade Officers)



# Way Ahead

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- Mishap Reporting Requirements:
  - Working with the Naval Safety Center to identify RMIS requirements
- Leadership Tools:
  - Test and implement leading indicator tools
- Safety Billets:
  - Structure review
- Focused Communications on 18 – 24  
Target Audience:
  - Leaders and target audience



# Line of Duty/Misconduct Determinations

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- A LOD/Misconduct determination is required:
  - In **ALL** active duty death cases;
  - Whenever a Marine incurs an injury that may result in permanent disability or the inability to perform duty for more than 24 hours
- All injuries and deaths are presumed to occur in the line of duty except in limited circumstances
- A Marine cannot be deprived of legally entitled benefits without proper investigation that rebutts the presumption
- No cookbook solutions: LOD determinations are based on the facts and circumstances of each particular case



# Misconduct Determinations

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- Misconduct Does Not Include:
  - Ordinary negligence or carelessness (Failure to exercise normal/standard care or diligence for the circumstances)
  - Violations of law or regulations do not by themselves constitute misconduct;
- Example: A Marine killed in an accident by falling asleep at the wheel while not wearing a seatbelt likely does not commit misconduct and should be found in the line of duty since his death was the result of ordinary negligence/carelessness, not willful neglect/recklessness
- Example: A Marine who violates a base order by running with headphones and is struck by a car and killed likely does not commit misconduct and should be found in the line of duty since his death was the result of ordinary negligence/carelessness, not willful neglect/recklessness.



# Intoxication

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- Intoxication:
  - May be the basis for a misconduct determination only if:
    - the member was sufficiently intoxicated to impair the rational and full exercise of his or her mental or physical faculties **and**
    - the impairment was the primary cause of the injury or death.
  - A Marine with a BAC level of .10 or greater is presumed to be sufficiently intoxicated to impair his mental or physical faculties.
- Example: A Marine with a BAC level of .10 who drives into a telephone pole and is killed has committed misconduct since it is presumed that his mental/physical faculties were impaired by intoxication and the impairment was the primary cause of the accident
- Example: A Marine with a BAC level of .10 who is injured when his car is rear-ended while lawfully stopped at a traffic light likely has not committed misconduct since his impairment was not the primary cause of the accident and he should be found in the line of duty





# Benefits NOT Affected by Line of Duty/Misconduct Determinations

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- Benefits payable regardless of LOD determination:
  - SGLI
    - Automatically set at \$400,000 unless Marine elects otherwise
  - Death Gratuity
    - \$100,000 for all active duty deaths
  - Military treatment facility care for Marine
  - Continued dependent medical and dental care for up to 3 years in the case of member death
  - Government housing or BAH allowance for up to 1 year in the case of member death



# Benefits LOST if Found Outside the Line of Duty

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- **Benefits forfeited if injured/killed outside line of duty:**
  - Survivor Benefit Plan
    - Only applicable if Marine has surviving spouse or children
    - 55% of amount Marine would receive if retired with 100% disability
    - LCpl with 3 years:      \$935 monthly
    - Sgt with 6 years:      \$1265 monthly
  - Traumatic Injury Insurance
  - The VA makes its own determination regarding the payment of numerous VA medical, financial, educational, and assistance benefits
    - Disability retirement/severance pay



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# Questions



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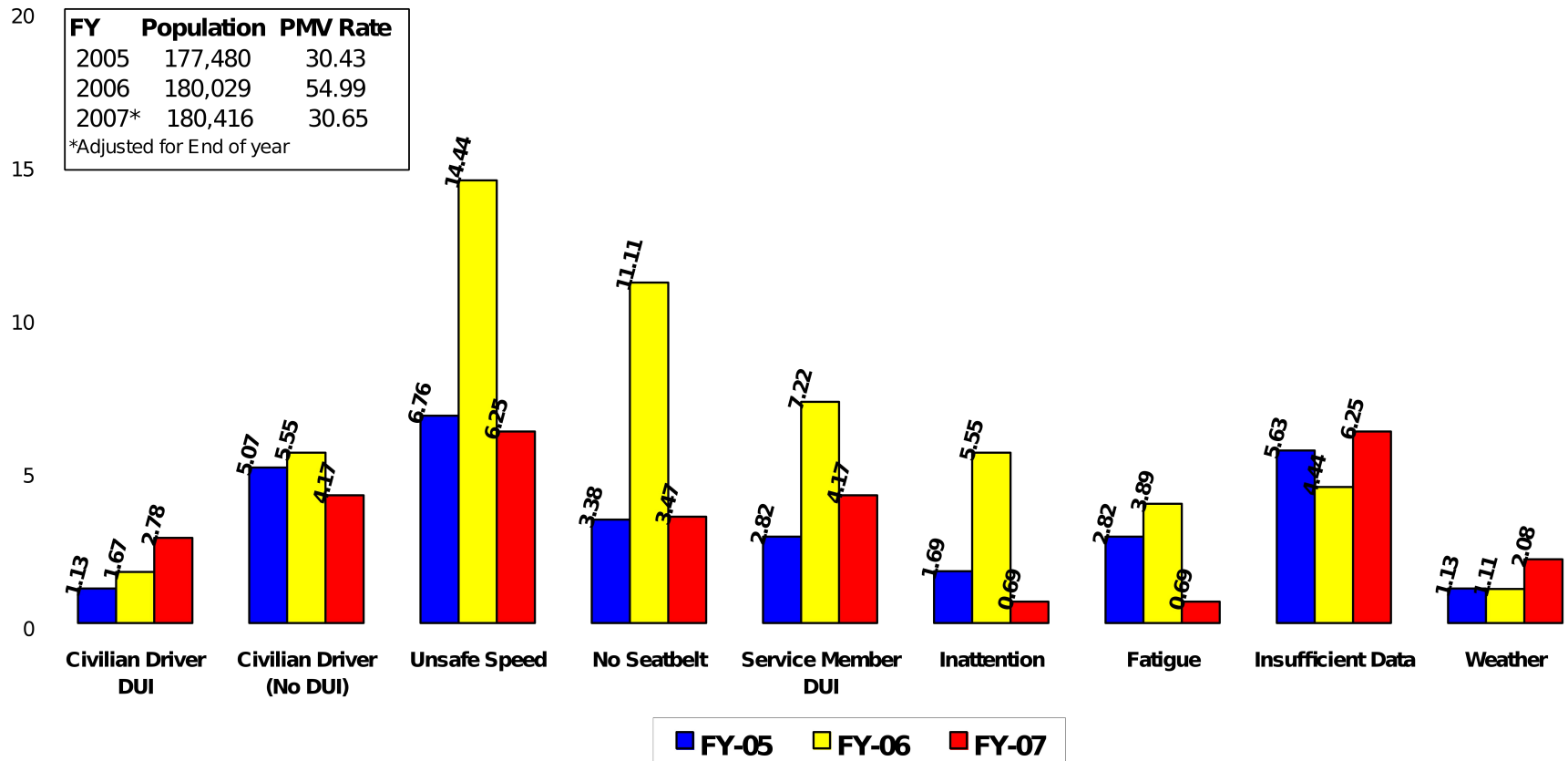
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# Backups



# FY 05-07 USMC PMV FATALITY CAUSAL FACTORS

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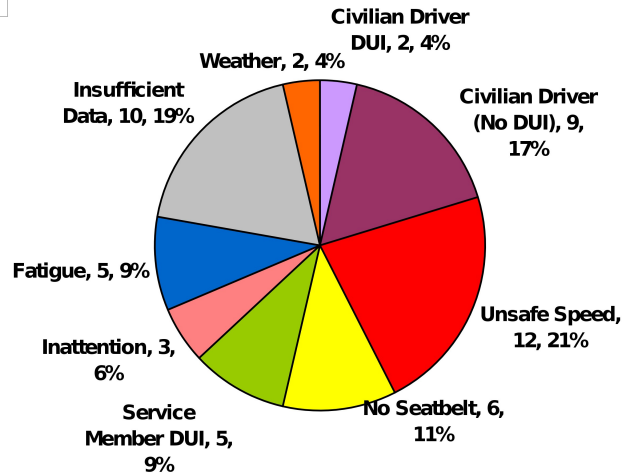




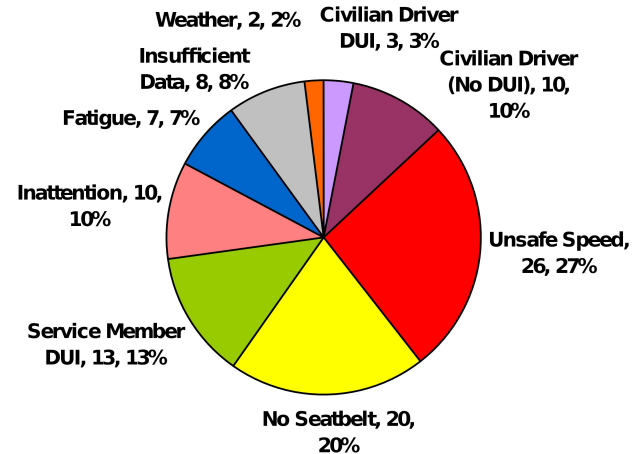
# FY 05-07 USMC PMV FATALITY CAUSAL FACTORS

## *Safety Division*

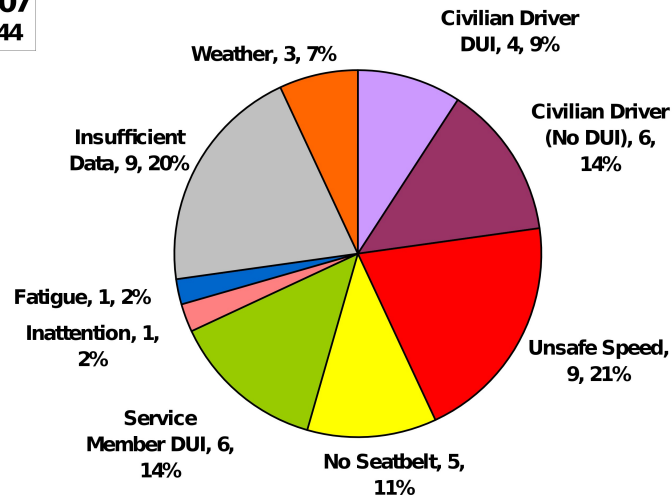
**FY05**  
n=54



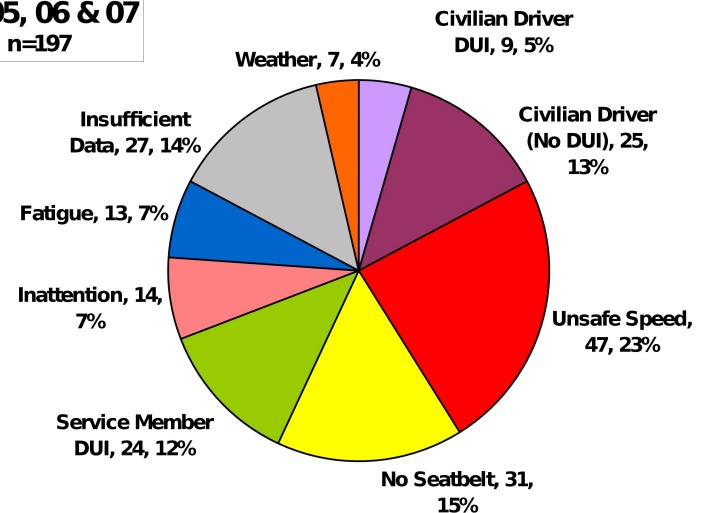
**FY06**  
n=99



**FY07**  
n=44



**FY 05, 06 & 07**  
n=197





# FY05 MARINE CORPS OPERATIONAL FATALITY CAUSAL FACTORS

## ***Safety Division***

- **Unsafe Act (12)**
  - HMMWV improper maneuver and rolled over with deaths. (6)
  - MTRV improper maneuver; turret gunner killed.
  - PVT killed in Government vehicle crash.
  - Sgt killed when he contacted high voltage wire.
  - LCpl struck and killed by HMMWV. (2)
  - Sgt killed in Government vehicle crash.
- **Failure to follow SOP (4)**
  - SSgt killed attempting to disarm MIG ejection seat.
  - Cpl killed by negligent discharge.
  - PVT drowned during water survival training.
  - LCpl ground guide killed by MTRV.
- **Medical/Physical (4)**
  - PVT found dead during crucible.
  - LtCol died following PT.
  - Recruit died during 2-mile run.
  - PFC died from heat related illness.
- **Unsafe Supervision (0)**
- **Environmental (2)**
  - Cpl was operating a D-7 dozer when the ground beneath gave out causing the dozer to fall into the river. Ground Guide also killed.
- **Unknown (0)**



# FY06 MARINE CORPS OPERATIONAL FATALITY CAUSAL FACTORS

## ***Safety Division***

- **Unsafe Act (23)**
  - HMMWV improper maneuver and rolled over with deaths. (8)
  - MTRV rollover with deaths. (11)
  - SSgt killed in HMMWV crash.
  - Marines/Corpsman killed in government vehicle crash. (3)
- **Failure to follow SOP (5)**
  - Marines killed by negligent discharge. (2)
  - LCpl and Corpsman killed when ejected from an LAV being towed when it turned on its side.
  - GySgt killed during tree cutting (no head protection).
  - LCpl killed when vehicle he was attempting to jump start rolled over him.
- **Medical/Physical (5)**
  - Corpsman died following PT.
  - PVT died following PT.
  - PFC died when he fell and struck head on rock during PT.
  - PFC died from heart attack following water training.
  - PVT died from heat related illness.
- **Unsafe Supervision (5)**
  - Sgt killed in forklift roll over.
  - 4 Marines drowned when M1A1 tank rolled off bridge.
- **Environmental (1)**
  - Sgt struck by lightning.
- **Unknown (0)**





# FY07 MARINE CORPS OPERATIONAL FATALITY CAUSAL FACTORS

## ***Safety Division***

- **Unsafe Act (8)**
  - HMMWV rolled over with deaths. (2)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>Lt fell from roof attempting to improve battle position.
  - Civilian Marine killed when struck by government vehicle.
  - MTRV rollover with death.
  - PFC killed when run over by MTRV while sleeping.
  - Marines killed in government vehicle crash. (2)
- **Failure to follow SOP (4)**
  - Marines killed by negligent discharge. (3)
  - LCpl killed when he contacted high voltage electrical wire.
- **Medical/Physical (0)**
- **Unsafe Supervision (3)**
  - LCpl killed when howitzer being loaded broke cable and fell.
  - 2 LCpls drowned when the boat they were using to cross river capsized.
- **Environmental (0)**
- **Unknown (0)**